

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 28, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-7, 10, 15-20, 22, 23 and 25-29 are amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. New claims 30 and 31 are added. No new matter is added. Claims 1-31 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1392075 to Hwang et al. (Hwang). Applicants respectfully submit that Hwang as not a valid prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), for the reasons set forth below.

The present application is National Stage application of a PCT application that was filed on September 20, 2002, and which designates the US. Thus, the effective US filing date is the PCT filing date of September 20, 2002. Hwang is a European application that was published on February 25, 2004. Thus, the effective US filing date of the present application is almost 17 months before the publication date of Hwang. Therefore, the Hwang is not valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). See 37 CFR 1.496(a) and MPEP 1893.03(c).

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Hwang is not valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) because it was not published before the present invention was made. Still

further, Hwang is not valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) because it was not filed in the US.

Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that Hwang is not a valid reference under section 35 U.S.C. 102. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.


As stated above, new claims 30 and 31 are added. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 30 and 31 recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-31 recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 1-31 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
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